

**COMMITTEE:** Housing Poverty Committee

**MEETING DATE:** March 27, 2009

**PERSON PRESIDING:** Chris McCarthy - NAHFH

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Pat Clark - MDHA  
Kay Bowers – New Level CDC  
Bernice Spann – NAHFH  
Beth Shinn – Vanderbilt- Peabody  
Adriane Harris – MDHA  
Scott Payne – 211TN  
Don Beisswenger- Housing Fund  
Jamie Hicks – Belmont University

**MEETING PURPOSE:**

Discussion of action items assigned at the February 27, 2009 meeting.

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**ACTIONS OF MEETING**

Discussion: The members in attendance agreed to focus on the following actions:

**Action (1) – Identify those in need of housing and what the need is. Establish a process for updating this need analysis on a regular basis.**

**United Ways' 211**

- Register Nashville area Habitat for Humanity in the 211 system under housing
  - Task completed by Amanda Hopkins/Bernice Spann of NAHFH on March 30.
- Scott Payne to update 211 system to include the following questions:
  - Are your repairs an emergency or a minor repair?
  - How much can you afford to pay each month for the repairs?
    - Loan or grant may be provided
    - Would you accept interest on a loan?
  - Do you need handicap access?
  - Are you looking for an opportunity to purchase a home?
  - What can you afford to pay each month to purchase a home?
    - Can you pay interest?
  - Are you behind on your bills?
  - Are you in need of transitional housing? Temporary housing?
  - Do you have a full time job?
  - Are you looking for rental housing?
  - Do you own your own home?
  - Does your home need repairs?
  - Are you homeless?
  - Do you need help managing your money to meet your bills?
  - Would you like to improve your money management skills?
  - Do you live in overcrowded conditions?
  - Are you in need of foreclosure counseling?
  - Are you looking for government subsidized housing? How much can you afford to pay for housing a month?
  - Callers are currently being screened for food stamps.
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- Scott to ask the 211 programmers if the above questions can be added to the 211 website for the next meeting.
- Scott to produce reports from 211 that show:
  - Demographics of callers by category of need and by what the need is.
  - Scott will develop a report that monthly summarizes the needs of the callers or website inquiries to 211
- Market 211 on MySpace
  - Homeless people can access through the public library
  - Homeless youth are more likely to use MySpace than older adults
  - Chris reported that the cost to market 211 would be in the \$5000-10,000 range and could be accomplished as follows:
    - Media (TV, Radio)
    - Websites (Affordable Housing Providers and United Way)
    - Press (newspapers and magazines)
    - Newsletters and web blasts for affordable housing and housing education providers plus United Way
    - Public Transportation Vehicles and Buses
    - Window Signs in businesses
    - Government web sites

It is clear from the last several months work that all affordable housing providers and housing education servicers have a wait lists that are double or more the capacity of the servicer. The need is growing astronomically.

#### Actions to be taken by the May meeting:

- The Affordable Housing spreadsheet is to be updated by the first week in each quarter. This will be completed by team members and input through Bernice Spann. (Action Item 2)
- Lisa Gallon to obtain Access Miami implementation plan, process and cost to be presented in the May meeting to the team. (Action Item 3)
- Bernice Spann to ask Cynthia Croom if other teams are using Access Miami as a model and to communicate this to the team. (Action Item 3)
- Bernice Spann is to print information from other teams as it relates to needs assessment and send this to the poverty symposium committee prior to the May meeting. (Action item 1)
- Chris and Bernice to get with Paul Johnson to see if the dates listed below are still doable (Action Item 4):
  - Beth Shinn reviewed her findings related to the cost of developing an annual report for housing status.
  - The Housing Fund has committed to getting the structure together in May 2009.
  - Establish partnerships and Research and Policy Center entity – April 2009
  - Assess the current environment by July 2009
  - Establish initial funding stream for Research and Policy Center – Apr 2009
  - Determine the impact that the current environment is having on housing – June 2009
  - Determine where the current allocations of federal and local public funding is going – June 2009
  - The Reporting Model development – Fall 2009
  - Ask Paul if he is considering hiring Mick (VU student) to update the affordable housing data? (see attachment)
  - Human and organizational development students at VU do internships; they may be able to replicate the data. Jamie Hicks to research partnerships with Belmont and VU's Social Justice Entrepreneurship program. Jamie to find out what it would take to replicate Mick's report

#### Action Item 5 – Implement Housing Trust Fund

- If we could implement the Housing Trust Fund from a one time grant by completing a pilot project and show that it works, we may be able to obtain permanent ongoing public support for this fund
- The goal is to serve people with 30% and below income.
- Bernice to ask Leah Holt of NAFH to research grants that help people get into homes.
  - The National Housing Trust Fund is a link to the type of funding
- Bernice obtain Out of Reach report from the National Low Income Housing Coalition website (NLIHC.org)
- Bernice to contact Bill Barnes to get information for the May meeting regarding the Barnes Housing Trust Fund.

**The group reviewed the attached action plans for all action items.**

#### **Next meeting:**

April 24, @ 3:30 at Nashville Area Habitat for Humanity